

# BREAKER

## TASMANIA'S ANTARCTIC BUSINESS MAGAZINE

*New Antarctic Minister*  
*Bryan Green's Message*

*Winter Warmers*  
*Hot Festival Events*

*North and South*  
*A Captain's Tale*

*Cool Opportunities*  
*Trade Show Plans*

# Celebrate Midwinter at the Gardens



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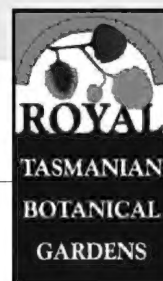


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# Editorial

Welcome to the Midwinter edition. June and July are packed with Antarctic-related events this year, starting with the Midwinter Festival, which is expected to attract thousands of people, and ending with multi-national Antarctic meetings and a trade show, with over 600 delegates expected.

Whereas 2007-8 will be the globally acknowledged International Polar Year (IPY), Hobart is having a mini-IPY in the next two months, with many opportunities for businesses to promote their Antarctic capabilities and facilities both nationally and internationally. Thanks to the key people involved in organising these events for their contributions to this issue.

I noted with interest that each school holidays, Tasmania's Department of Education publishes 'KIDZED', a magazine that lists workshops and activities based on the Essential Learnings Framework. I was pleased to see several Antarctic and Southern Ocean topics included, such as 'Fish Sculpturing in Wax, Whale of a Time – Scrimshaw (TMAG) and World Ocean Day and Sharks (Marine Discovery Centre). As an occasional volunteer at the MDC, I never tire of seeing children's enthusiasm when interacting with sea-life, and hope this interest develops in the future to maintain our Antarctic and Southern Ocean community.

*Anthea Wallhead*

**Cover Picture:** Hobart, Australia's Antarctic Capital [Photo: Antarctic Tasmania]

**Back Page:** Chilean and South African Stamp Covers provided by Klaus Arne Pedersen, NZ.

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## ICE BREAKER Exclusive!

**Hobart's Ice Pilot – Captain Martin North's maritime world**

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**ICE BREAKER**  
TASMANIA'S ANTARCTIC BUSINESS MAGAZINE



It is a great pleasure to be asked to contribute a regular update of the Tasmanian Government's Antarctic-related activities in *Ice Breaker*. I know that my predecessor Lara Giddings particularly enjoyed this role and her work with Antarctic Tasmania as part of the Economic Development portfolio. I am also looking forward to working with the Antarctic community in Tasmania and developing the enormous opportunities that exist.

Antarctic-related activities are very important to Tasmania and the value of these activities was recently assessed as being worth \$126 million annually and growing.

It is an exciting year ahead for our Antarctic sector.

The full implementation of Australia's intercontinental airlink is important to the ongoing development of Tasmania's Antarctic sector. The long-awaited air service trials between Hobart and Antarctica are to begin in the 2006-07 summer season, possibly as early as December 2006, as a prelude to regular scheduled flights the following summer.

A heavy work program in Antarctica over the 2005-06 summer has enabled the completion of a compressed snow runway on a blue-ice base. The work program used specialist equipment costing about \$3 million, \$2 million of which was sourced in Tasmania.

The airlink is designed to make it possible for scientists and other key personnel to travel from Hobart to Casey within a few hours instead of the present minimum ship-travel time of about a week. The personnel can then be flown to other Antarctic destinations by the internal air service, which has been operating in Antarctica for the past two summers.

The annual Antarctic Midwinter Festival commences on 16 June 2006 and follows last year's, which, for the second year in a row, won the Tasmanian Tourism Council's *Significant Festival and Events Award*. The Government is proud to continue to support the festival through the provision of \$55,000.

As usual, the festival features a host of favourite activities as well as some exciting new ones. The regular events include the Huskies Picnic, the Longest Night Film Festival and ice sculptor Kenji Ogawa.

Among the new attractions is Ice Cold Words - a new Antarctic Writers' Festival designed to explore the many ways that the Antarctic inspiration manifests itself in poetry, plays, fiction, non-fiction and even opera.

There is also the One Planet Extreme Environment Photographic Exhibition that will showcase some of the most spectacular images of extreme environments from photographers from around the world. The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's spectacular new Island to Ice exhibition will also feature in this year's festival.

This unique festival, now in its sixth year, celebrates Tasmania's historical and contemporary connections with Antarctica and the Southern Ocean and is a 'must' for all those connected in any way in these activities today.

Immediately after the Midwinter Festival, Antarctic science and logistics will again be under the spotlight as Hobart welcomes hundreds of delegates from over 29 countries for the major international Antarctic meetings of the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research and the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs.

This biennial gathering will be held from 9 to 14 July 2006 and will give the Antarctic logistics and operations community the opportunity to investigate and showcase latest innovations.

A lot of hard work has already been done in preparing for this significant event including the production of our first *Antarctic Prospectus*; a publication that details everything Tasmania has to offer an Antarctic-related business or organisation looking to establish or relocate its operations.

The future of Tasmania's Antarctic sector is looking exceptionally bright and I welcome the opportunity to be a contributor to this exciting growth period.

**Bryan Green MHA**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Antarctic Tasmania**



Awareness of the Antarctic seems to be greater in Tasmanians than most other Australians. That is certainly my experience when with talking with people interstate. While this may seem to be logical, as Tasmania provides a hub for matters Antarctic, it is a pity more Australians don't identify with this pristine region and our roles and responsibilities there.

It is important that we strive to increase public awareness of our close connection with Antarctica and the southern oceans, and the global significance of this relationship.

Our association with the region will be highlighted again with the Midwinter Festival in June, which will highlight the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration. One of the features of the Midwinter Festival will detail the extensive program of science and research undertaken in the region. This successful Festival increases public awareness, and continues to attract the interest of many locals and visitors to the State.

Of course these Festivals can't go on without the generous support of sponsors and it is very pleasing to see some of our State's corporate citizens lending their support, in particular the media which is so important in getting the message out.

We also have the wonderful new exhibition at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery - Island to Ice, the Great Southern Ocean and Antarctica exhibition – which is attracting thousands of visitors.

The Tasmanian Liberals went to the recent State election with a policy to seize Antarctic opportunities. In particular, with the airlink, we believe Tasmania is well placed to serve as the major international gateway to Antarctica, luring scientists from all over the world to Hobart before departing for the icy continent.

The teaching at schools of our Antarctic history and our current involvement in science, research and environmental protection is also especially important.

We believe it is crucial that we are proactive in spreading the word of Tasmania's status as an international hub, and further developing and enhancing our long and rich association with Antarctica.

**Will Hodgman**  
**Liberal Leader**  
**Shadow Minister for Antarctic Tasmania**

## **ISLANDS TO ICE EXHIBITION UPDATE**

The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery recently passed a significant milestone. Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of April was the date the 50,000<sup>th</sup> visitor came to the Museum since the opening of the new exhibition *Islands to Ice: the Great Southern Ocean and Antarctica*.

Minister for the Arts Paula Wriedt presented visitor number 50,000 with an icebox full of Antarctic related goodies, including posters, cards and books. The lucky winner was Paul Amey who was visiting Tasmania from South Australia, with his wife and mother-in-law. He was delighted to find out he was 50,000<sup>th</sup> visitor to the exhibition and he said that he couldn't leave the state without a visit to the TMAG on his last day.

The exhibition has proved popular with visitors and locals alike, with many returning for a longer look. Education and Visitor Services staff at the TMAG have also been busy organising school groups and tours of the exhibition.

The TMAG hosted the launch of the Mid-Winter Festival. It will also be the venue for several exhibitions and events relating to the Festival. More details are available at the website: [www.tmag.tas.gov.au](http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au)

[Thanks to Michelle Nichols at TMAG for this article]

Next page: Minister for the Arts Paula Wriedt meets the 50,000<sup>th</sup> visitor to the TMAG since the opening of the *Islands to Ice* exhibition. Photo: Peter West

# PEG PUTT'S MESSAGE



The recent national screening of an interview with National Party Senator, Barnaby Joyce, on ABC's *Australian Story*, gives cause for great concern among Antarctic scientists and the wider community - and rightly so. In the programme, Senator Joyce candidly revealed his support for mining in the Antarctic even though the 1991 Madrid Protocol precludes such activity for fifty years.

Despite assurances from the Federal Environment Minister, Ian Campbell, that the government is committed to maintaining Australia's Antarctic Territory for its wilderness values, that a Federal Senator has raised the spectre of mining indicates that there remains scant knowledge and understanding of Antarctica's global significance amongst elected representatives.

The continent is not only a tremendous source of scientific inspiration and endeavour, but its importance in terms of our planetary climate - in an age of climate change - cannot be overstated. Protocols and treaties in relation to human activities in Antarctica also serve as models for international relations and multilateral agreements over a range of issues, but especially regarding common pooled resources, or the 'global commons'.

For most people, however, protecting the sublime nature of Antarctica's wilderness, and its habitat values for a stunning array of unique species is of foremost importance. That these have so far been uncompromised is testament to the dedication and strength of the Australian and international scientific communities. Some of the values I have mentioned are, however, at risk from increased base-building activity, for example, and would be further compromised by extractive or consumptive activities particularly in relation to mining or mining exploration. In advance of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative meeting in Edinburgh in June 2006, the Tasmanian Greens once again call for the entire continent and its surrounding waters to be nominated for World Heritage listing in order to ensure that Antarctica's present values are sustained into the future.

Apropos of topical issues relating to Tasmanian Polar and Southern Oceans, I commend the publishers of *Ice Breaker* for extending the audience of interested parties beyond Antarctic scientists and other dedicated professionals.

**Peg Putt MHA**

**Tasmanian Greens Opposition Leader**



# TPN CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The SCAR/COMNAP conference between 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July is now only 5 weeks away and we need all TPN members to participate as much as they are able please with helping and hosting the various events. Remember that this is a once off opportunity for us to showcase Tasmania to the leaders of international activity in Antarctica, the Sub-Antarctic and the Southern Oceans. Please let Heather Glidden at Antarctic Tasmania know of your availability to help.

Also remember that the Conference is to be preceded by the International Sub-Antarctic Forum to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of July. This will be a good opportunity to listen and learn about things relevant to the future of Macquarie Island, which is an agenda item for us now.

The Midwinter Festival is also about to launch and this will again create an opportunity for the TPN to help raise Tasmanian's interest and awareness of the parts of the globe south of Hobart. Again we need volunteers to help with several of the scheduled events so please help if you are able – contact the Antarctic Tasmania office on 6233 5493.

We still await an announcement from AAD regarding the intercontinental air-link – should be soon.

As soon as the shortest day passes, we can all look forward to the coming of the summer season with all its activity and opportunity – until then, keep warm!

**Bill Lawson.**  
**TPN Chairman.**

## **THANK YOU, LARA**

The Editor wishes to thank Lara Giddings, former Minister for Antarctic Tasmania, for her enthusiasm and regular contributions to ICE BREAKER magazine

## **MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF HOBART**



Over the next few months Hobart can look forward to a number of very special Southern Ocean and Antarctic related events. As well as the SCAR/COMNAP conference in July there is also the International Forum on the Sub-Antarctic immediately prior, being hosted by Sir Guy Green.

And of course there is the Midwinter Festival in June, which again celebrates Hobart's connection with the Antarctic and Southern Ocean.

I know, for all of these events, there are a host of activities planned that will show Hobart at its winter best to both our community and the 800 plus visitors we are expecting for the conferences. It is a chance for Hobartians to show their pride in our Antarctic links, both past and present.

It is also an opportunity for the Hobart Antarctic business community to strengthen existing links and cultivate new global opportunities. The polar community in Hobart is incredibly diverse and experienced in what it can provide to the world's polar programs.

I note the Tasmanian Polar Network, along with the Hobart City Council and Antarctic Tasmania, are the major sponsors of the SCAR/COMNAP conference. This is a sponsorship with the aim of boosting opportunities for the business community and to place on show the City's extensive resources, knowledge and connections with Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic regions.

I personally look forward to both welcoming and meeting many of our international guests that will be attending these conferences, and trust they will be afforded the hospitality for which Hobart and its neighbouring Councils are renown.

Congratulations to all who are involved in organising the feast of events that await us.

**Alderman Rob Valentine**



## Midwinter Festival!

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY ANTARCTIC TASMANIA





It's been a busy time for Antarctic Tasmania and the Antarctic sector over the past three months. Some of the highlights include the following.

On 5 May 2006, the Tasmanian Government, the University of Tasmania and the Embassy of France announced the establishment of a jointly created award, the *Tasmanian Marine Science Fellowship*, in the field of marine and Antarctic sciences. This program enables early career researchers to travel to France to undertake study missions to acquire a specific training or qualification, strengthen cooperation and expand international networks, and gain recognition for their work. Applications are open to Tasmanian postgraduate students, young researchers and scientists in private enterprise. The total amount available for this year is \$15,000. This will support between one and three laureates for a stay (return ticket and living allowances) in France from one to three months.

Australia's most comprehensive exhibition on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, *Islands to Ice: the Great Southern Ocean and Antarctica*, opened at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG). This new permanent exhibition opened on 6 March 2006 by Tasmania's honorary Antarctic Ambassador, Sir Guy Green, and the former Minister for Economic Development and Arts, Lara Giddings MHA. This milestone fulfils Action 37 of the 2004 *Tasmanian Antarctic, Sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean Policy* that embodies the \$600,000 investment by the Tasmanian Government to promote Tasmania's Antarctic credentials.

Antarctic Tasmania has established an on-line newsletter, the *Antarctic Tasmania Newsletter*, so that we can keep stakeholders informed about developments in the Tasmanian Antarctic sector at regular intervals. The May edition can be accessed at <http://www.development.tas.gov.au/antarctic/newsletters/may06.html>

Heather Glidden from Antarctic Tasmania has recently returned from the 2006 annual general meeting of the International Association of Antarctica Tourism Operators (IAATO) that was held in Washington DC, in the United States. The great news is that Tasmania's bid to host the 2007 IAATO annual general meeting in Hobart was successful. The date for the meeting has yet to be set although it is expected to be held during June 2007.

The Tasmanian Polar Network (TPN) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) on 31 March 2006. Under the MoU, the two organisations have made a commitment to increasing engagement, awareness and understanding amongst the wider business community of the contribution that the Tasmanian Antarctic sector makes towards the local economy. It will also promote Tasmania's capabilities to provide cold region goods and services nationally and internationally, and monitor and foster development of emerging Antarctic sector opportunities.

Antarctic Tasmania, with the assistance of many Antarctic gateway partners, has recently produced the *Antarctic Sector Prospectus*. The prospectus provides a comprehensive overview of Tasmania's Antarctic industry sector and government capabilities, and details a directory of international-, national- and state-based Antarctic and marine organisations. The 64-page prospectus will be distributed to delegates attending the meetings on the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP), which will be held in Hobart during July 2006.

Looking ahead over the next few months, the spotlight will certainly be on Hobart. The Antarctic sector is growing in Tasmania and it continues to attract people with a focus on the Antarctic from around the world. Over the coming months the following international and national events will be held in Hobart.

Antarctic Midwinter Festival:	16 – 25 June 2006
International Workshop on Sea Ice Thickness	5 – 7 July 2006
International Sub-Antarctic Forum	6 – 7 July 2006
International Antarctic Institute Meeting	8 July 2006
International Polar Year (IPY) Consultative Forum,	8 July 2006
SCAR/COMNAP meetings	9 – 19 July 2006
Latitudinal Gradient Project Workshop	10 July 2006
Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML) Workshop	11 July 2006
Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) Workshop	15 July 2006

Continued>

# MIDWINTER'S FESTIVAL EVENTS

## *Antarctic Midwinter Festival again hits the winter in Tasmania*

Hobart will once again come alive to the sights and sounds of Tasmania's premiere winter event, the *Antarctic Midwinter Festival* from 16-25 June 2006.

In its sixth year, this unique festival provides Tasmanians and visitors alike with a fascinating insight into Tasmania's long and proud Antarctic history, as well as showcasing the state's vibrant contemporary connections with the Antarctic, sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean region.

The festival is centred in the Salamanca and Sullivans Cove precincts and starts with *The Longest Night Film Festival* – the only film festival dedicated to presenting films from Polar regions and extreme environments. Snuggle up at the State Cinema in North Hobart to enjoy these cinematic gems!

The festival program this year includes two totally new and exciting events.

The *One Planet Extreme Environment Photographic Competition* will present images of nature at its most powerful and includes the Wayne Papps Memorial Prize for best Antarctic image. Short-listed images will be on display at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery throughout the festival.

*Ice Cold Words – an Antarctic Writers Festival* will introduce writers from all over Australia and New Zealand who have a passion for writing fact, fiction and fable on the coldest continent on earth. Supported by Festivals Australia and the Tasmanian Writers Centre, this new event will have a program of activities with Tim Bowden hosting the opening evening.

*Islands to Ice* is the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's new exhibition exploring the definitions, perceptions, mythology and motivations of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. It explores the places, the people, the creatures and the phenomena that make the great southern wilderness a world of its own. It is an invitation to journey south from Hobart across wild sapphire oceans to the crystal desert of the Antarctic. Opened in early March this year, *Islands to Ice* will certainly attract significant attention and numbers of visitors throughout the festival.

A highlight of the first weekend of the festival is a special Midwinter Dinner where guests enjoy the company of a select group in the historic CCAMLR Headquarters as well as an all-inclusive menu featuring the finest Tasmanian food and selected wines from Bream Creek. On the same day you can visit the famed Salamanca Market and tour the exhibitions or take one of the historic walking tours.

During the week of the festival there are themed lunches with interesting guest speakers and on the last weekend the famous *Huskies Picnic* at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Ice carving, dogs galore, food, Taiko drumming and winter fun is in abundance at this great family event.

*The Sunday Tasmanian* featured a special *Antarctic Midwinter Festival Program* on Sunday 4 June. The feature will include a total event guide. The festival website at [www.antarctic-tasmania.info](http://www.antarctic-tasmania.info) is current and gives full, up-to-date event details as they are confirmed.

Event programs are also available from all *Service Tasmania* and *Tasmanian Visitor Information Centres*, the *Hobart City Council*, *Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery* and the *Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens*.

[Thanks to **David Laskey, Festival Director**, for this article]

## **ANTARCTIC TASMANIA (continued)**

Finally, we welcome and look forward to working with the new Minister responsible for Antarctic Affairs, Deputy Premier Brian Green MHA.

All of us at Antarctic Tasmania would like to thank our Antarctic gateway partners in the Tasmania Antarctic community for their continued support, particularly over the past few months. It is a pleasure to work cooperatively with such a dynamic and visionary sector.

**Ben Galbraith**  
**General Manger**  
**Antarctic Tasmania**

# SCAR/COMNAP EVENTS AND TRADE SHOW

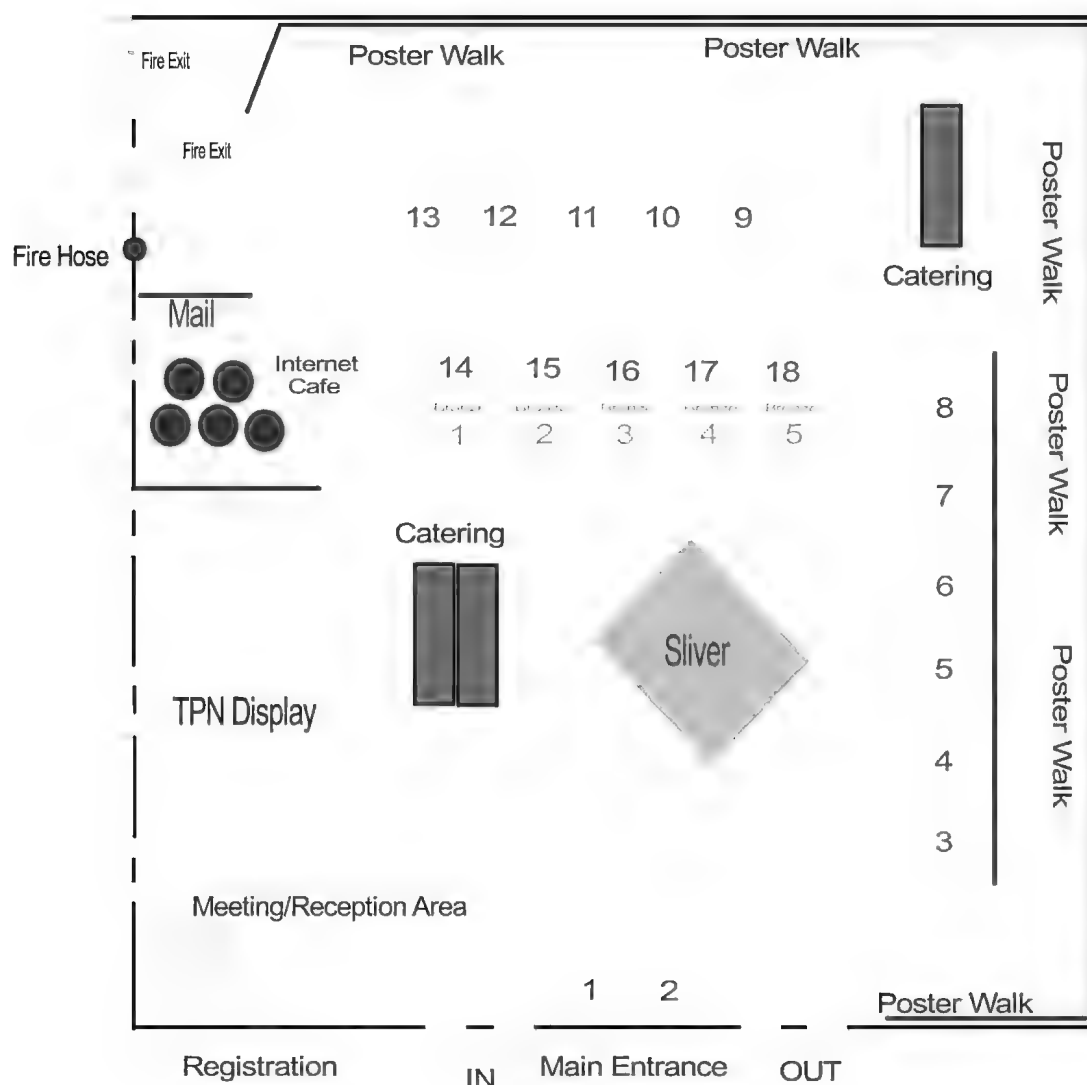
The latest in Antarctic science and logistics will be centre stage at July's Open Science Conference in Hobart next month being held in conjunction with the Standing Committee on Antarctic Logistics and Operations (SCALOP) Symposium. Both are part of the joint biennial meetings of the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research and the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (SCAR/COMNAP 2006).

SCAR/COMNAP 2006 will feature leading keynote speakers and a host of related business meetings and workshops in a jam-packed 12-day program expected to draw over 700 international and local delegates – as well as an entertaining public program.

Under the theme 'Antarctica in the Earth system', the Open Science Conference is THE world event in Antarctic science, showcasing the latest thinking on all aspects of current Antarctic research, particularly in areas highlighting the close connections between Antarctic processes and other parts of the Earth System, such as global climate studies.

Some of the research being presented includes the discovery of bacteria living under the ice, new kinds of sea spiders living in the harsh Antarctic seas, the latest in climate change markers in the Antarctic environment and how animals are being used to collect data on themselves without the need for intrusive research methods. Presentations on the latest in science technology, environmental management and the human element in the Antarctic experience will also be on offer.

A Public Open Day on Saturday 15 July will provide public access to the SCALOP Trade Exhibition that will showcase Tasmania's leading companies supporting Antarctic research and logistics, and feature a Public Lecture by the Australian Antarctic Division's Chief Scientist, Professor Michael Stoddart, exploring the taxpayer's role in Antarctic Science, in a talk 'The Taxpayer in Antarctica: public money, public good?' For full details, see [www.scarcomnap2006.org](http://www.scarcomnap2006.org).



**Left: Proposed layout of SCAR/COMNAP Trade Show. Image: Leishman Associates.**

**Next page: Proposed TPN Trade Show section. Image: Bob Dickason**

# RUSSIA IN ANTARCTICA

The year 2006 marks 50 years of uninterrupted Soviet research in the Antarctic region. On 13 February 1956, at a time when the Soviet people looked upon Antarctica as a frontier and on the expeditioners as heroes, the Soviet flag was raised in *Mirny*, the first Soviet Antarctic station. Dr. Mikhail Somov was its first station leader and leader of the whole complex Soviet Antarctic Expedition. *Mirny* (Peace) station was named after the sloop from the First Russian Antarctic Expedition of 1819-1821 under the command of Captain F. Bellingshausen. (See Page 18 for commemorative postcard.)

This significant anniversary is associated with a renewed commitment to a Russian presence in Antarctica, as shown by Decree Number 713-r of the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2005, which is aimed at “maintaining and reinforcing the Russian Federation’s position in Antarctica”. It includes a plan of goals to be achieved over the 2006 – 2010 period, with operational funding for 2006 increased by 47%.

At the moment there are five permanent Russian stations: *Bellingshausen*, *Mirny*, *Novolazarevskaya*, *Progress* and *Vostok*, and two summer field stations: *Druzhnaya-4* and *Molodezhnaya*. By 2009, *Progress* will become Russian Antarctic Expedition’s (RAE) main base in Antarctica with construction of a new winter complex and airstrip being carried out.

A resurgence of interest is confirmed by the director of RAE Valery Lukin, who, at a press conference in Saint Petersburg in February 2006, stated that Russia has embarked on a design for a new scientific expeditionary vessel to replace the *Academician Fedorov* which was built in 1987, and is also planning to reactivate the *Leningradskaya* and *Russkaya* stations which will include automatic meteorological data collection.

A Jubilee “Russia in Antarctica” conference dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Soviet/Russian Antarctic research, which attracted 172 researchers from 36 institutions in Russia, Byelorussia, France, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, was held in Saint Petersburg in April 2006. It was organized by Roshydromet (Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring) and supported by Rosnedra (Federal Agency for Subsoil Use of the Russian Federation Ministry of Natural Resources), the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Russian Fund of Fundamental Researches. The conference focused on current research, environmental issues, development of infrastructure and transport systems, geopolitical aspects, historical matters and plans for the IPY in 2007/08 as well as the program for the next 5-10 years. The opportunity was taken to launch the new Antarctic Atlas, published in 2006, 40 years after the publication of the first Soviet Antarctic Atlas.

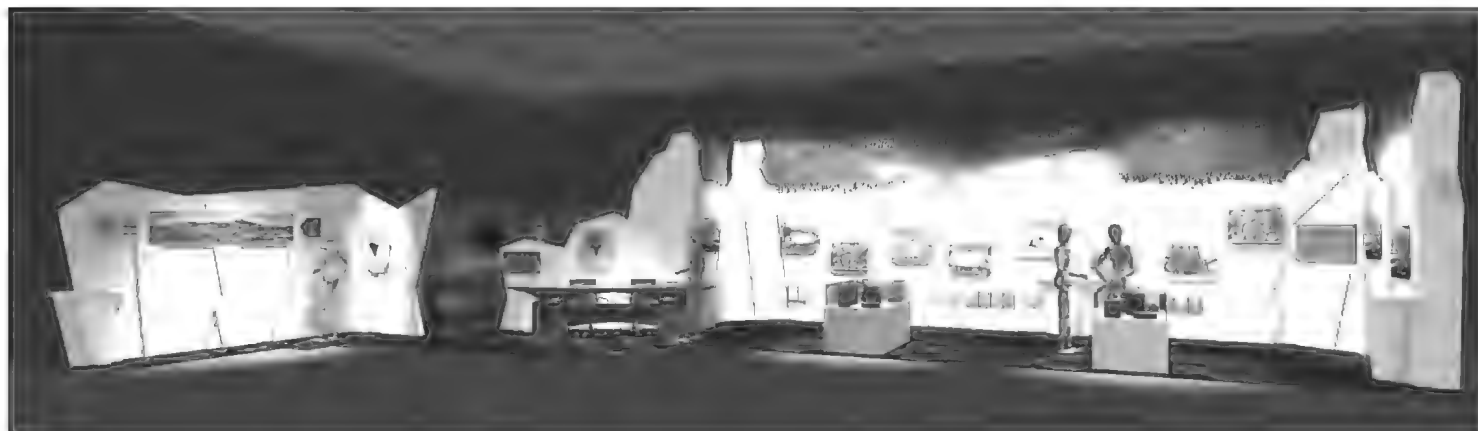
The conference noted that despite serious financial difficulties experienced after the collapse of the USSR in the 1990s, when funding and logistic support for Antarctic and Arctic programs was cut dramatically, it has now become possible to not only maintain its infrastructure and research, but to consolidate and broaden its presence in Antarctica.

Roshydromet in Moscow is the institution that is responsible for coordinating all facets of Russia’s Antarctic Program, and together with the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in Saint Petersburg will provide support to colleagues from Byelorussia and Kazakhstan in their intentions to establish a national Antarctic research program.

While Russia will be hosting the XXX SCAR conference in Saint Petersburg in July 2008, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Russian delegation to the SCAR meetings in Hobart in July 2006 and look forward to developing warm and productive relations in our mutual Antarctic endeavours.

Irina Gan

[Correction to Irina’s article in IB34. The photo on P.14 shows Mawson base, not Casey]



# HOBART'S ICE PILOT

## *Captain Martin North's account of his extensive experiences at sea and as a ship's pilot.*

I have always had a fascination with the Arctic and Antarctica, particularly the thought of being on a ship forcing passage through heavy sea ice, with penguins and seals moving aside and the ice floes fracturing to the horizon like a cracked mirror. However, as a Cadet in the British merchant navy, most of the voyages I made were to warmer climes, former British Empire outposts like Malta, Suez, Persian Gulf, India, Singapore, or Hong Kong. On one occasion I made a voyage to Scandinavia and Iceland, but regrettably that was in summer, so I could only marvel at the ice-strengthened ships basking in the long summer days awaiting their winter's work. At Reykjavík I was even able to see the midnight sun over the rugged and icy horizon, but that was only a small step in my quest. Later when I was studying for my second mates certificate I shared a room overlooking the Solent with another student whose dad was working on a British Antarctic Survey ship – \* “RRS John Briscoe” - and I well recall watching out of our window one evening in 1974 as they returned to Southampton with the accommodation block partly stove in after an iceberg rolled over on to the ship moored alongside. I spent many an exciting hour wondering how it must have been when the iceberg; many times the tonnage of the ship; rolled over and how the ship must nearly have been lost forever into the polar ocean.

A couple of years later as I was studying for my first mates certificate, that same ship was seeking a third officer but my application to see the ice took so long to process by the BAS Cambridge office that I was at sea again, crossing the North Pacific in a tramp steamer and unavailable for a further nine months. When I came to Hobart with my Tasmanian wife in 1979 I presumed that was the end of my Antarctic aspirations because at that time Australia used Scandinavian and German ships for their voyages south. However in 1990 P&O Polar commenced operations for the AAD with “Aurora Australis” and I requested a transfer from P&O's Australian container ships, which was turned down, since “Aurora Australis” was to be manned from another part of the P&O fleet. Whilst I was on leave I was sometimes able to see these AAD chartered ships in Hobart but in 1987 I moved to Thevenard in South Australia to open my career as a Harbour Pilot. Again I supposed that was the end of any Antarctic ambition: far from experiencing the ice - at least on Mt Wellington - I was now working on the edge of the Nullarbor Desert in a port exporting sand, salt and wheat in the *good* years. True it was flat, windy and cold - in winter - and we had seals in the bay, but the summer was not in the least bit polar, more Arabian I suppose. After a few years I moved up to Cairns and piloted in 8 ports all over Far North Queensland, rather like the flying doctor. This was all well and good and certainly most interesting, so long as my imagination could substitute penguins with the similar habits of salt water crocodiles slithering into the water from the banks of the Norman River, and visualize albatross whilst looking at their mammal soaring cousins, fruit bats, following ships in the Weipa dredged channel.

In 1996 I returned to Hobart as a Pilot and was at last able to work momentarily on the ships before their voyaging south. In many ways this was acceptable to me as the best of both worlds. I was usually the first onboard when they returned with exciting polar tales, and I was the last to bid farewell when they sailed, whilst I could go home at night. This involvement seemed glacial enough for me.



### **Sub-Antarctic landing?**

No, this a Zodiac from expedition cruise vessel “Orion” piloted at Port Davy in Tasmania's SW wilderness in January. “Orion” went on to make two voyages to Antarctica earlier this year from Hobart and then Christchurch. Still to my mind with a little imagination, Port Davy presents similar Geography at first glance to some Sub-Antarctic islands, and the similarities are enough to whet an adventurer's appetite. Such connections make my role as a Pilot very fulfilling.

Continued>

# HOBART'S ICE PILOT

As time went on I piloted “Aurora Australis”, “L'Astrolabe”, “Kapitan Khlebnikov”, “Polar Bird”, “Academic Shokalsky”, “Italica”, “Vasiliy Golovnin”, the US Coast Guard Cutters and many, many other Antarctic ships of all nationalities and all purposes from pure science to military, from cargo to luxury cruising, from extraordinarily powerful, high technology military icebreakers to the true adventure of “Sir Hubert Wilkins”. Now this was at last a proper connection with Antarctic shipping if not ice.

On one occasion I overheard the Captain of the US Coast Guard Cutter, on seeing a tiny ship and helicopter ahead of him on the wharf, suggest to his operations officer that they may as well issue a “case number” to “Sir Hubert Wilkins” now, rather than delay the inevitable. I think it was that year that the Coast Guard lost a propeller blade cutting the McMurdo channel whilst “Sir Hubert” came home herself - as usual.

In 2001 Rod Ledingham, on behalf of Quark Expeditions, invited me to make a voyage on the icebreaker “Kapitan Khlebnikov” to the Ross Sea, in his words as “Quark’s guest”. Now this was something I had only ever dreamed of. I would have to say that this became a life changing experience. The voyage “*Furthest South*” took us through very heavy ice to McMurdo and Scott Base at 77 deg 51 minutes South, to the Taylor Dry Valley, to the early explorers huts, past the massive iceberg B 15A, to landings at penguin colonies, icy helicopter flights and to the unbelievable Sub-Antarctic islands of Macquarie, Campbell, Enderby and the Snares. The voyage was one thing, the people another. Everyone on board was incredible from the Russian crew to the expedition staff. The passengers were an international group of adventurers, of all ages, of all backgrounds, each with their own passionate motives for making the voyage. I have been left with indelible images of many aspects of Antarctica. I am most fortunate to have been Quark’s guest. But perhaps the most striking thing for me beyond the actual voyage was the realisation of the many similarities between the Sub Antarctic Islands and coastal Southern Tasmania.

Under State Government legislation any vessel exceeding 35 metres in length requires the services of a licensed pilot whilst within gazetted port limits. Until quite recently Hobart was an independent government owned enterprise and we supplied a pilot for ships visiting Freycinet National Park, Triabunna, Port Arthur, Hobart, D’Entrecasteaux Channel, Port Davey, Strahan, Stanley, and Grassy on King Island. Some ships need me for a week or more, since I cannot get ashore between ports. However, at the beginning of this year TasPorts was formed by merging Hobart with Burnie, Devonport and Launceston. We now have 3 Pilots stationed in Hobart and another 6 in the north of the state.

As a Hobart pilot I can live in what I regard as the best place on earth. I have a strong connection with Antarctic shipping and an association with the wider Antarctic community, and I retain my links to general shipping. It is a very satisfying vocation.

## Deep in the Southern Ocean?

No, again this was taken off the coast of NW Tasmania on a coastal voyage from Strahan to King Island, as pilot on the “Orion”. As best I can tell this is a Shy Albatross which breed only at Pedra Branca, the Mewstone off southern Tasmania and Albatross Island, which is off our NW coast. In conjunction with Macquarie Island these breeding sights make Tasmania very important from the Albatross’ point of view, and make Tasmanians very fortunate to have a connection with these wonderful pelagic birds.



\* John Briscoe was appointed Master of brig “Tula” by the whaling company Samuel Enderby and Sons. He visited Hobart in 1831 as leader of an expedition to find new seal-hunting grounds in the Southern Ocean. In 1837 he decided to return to Hobart, bringing his family with him. Here he took command of the “Lady Emma” for the 1839-1840 sealing expedition and became a regular master of vessels sailing between Hobart, Sydney and Port Philip. He retired due to ill-health in 1843 and died on the voyage back to England. [From Wikipedia < *User David Kernow* ].

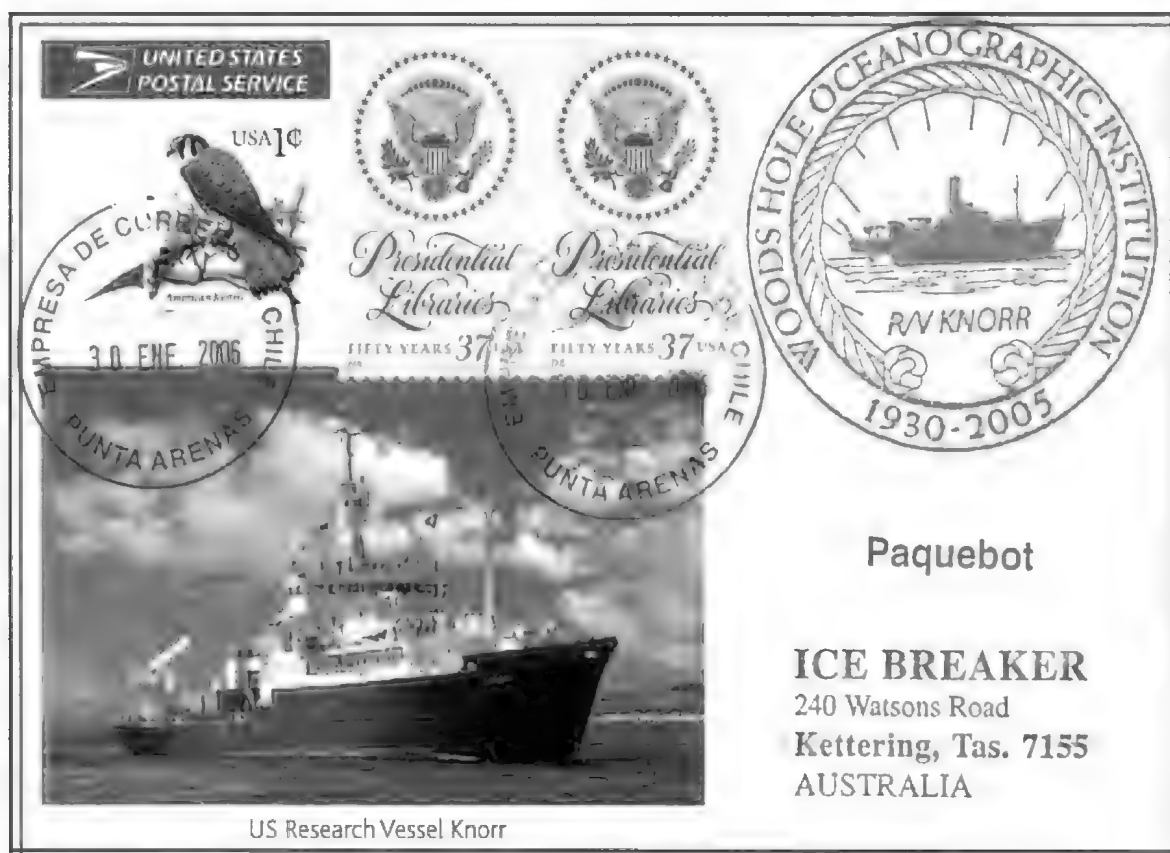
Continued>

# HOBART'S ICE PILOT



My normal work - when I am unable to take a passenger ship to South West Tasmania - is moving ships within the port of Hobart. In this shot a fairly large cargo ship approaches Tasman Bridge from Risdon Wharf. A tug is made fast astern to assist in the event of steering or ships engine failure. Ship and tug under control of the pilot, the exact relationship being *"Vessel to Masters orders and pilots advice"*.

I am unaware of any ships master who questions the pilots "advice" at this stage.





Winter in Hobart this year is going to be very busy for Antarctic and Southern Ocean researchers. Hosting the 29<sup>th</sup> SCAR meeting, the 2<sup>nd</sup> SCAR Open Science Conference and the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of COMNAP in Hobart are all major undertakings that will bring to Hobart hundreds of international visitors with active interests in Antarctic and Southern Ocean affairs. The ACE CRC is a co-sponsor of the SCAR conference and we see it as a great opportunity to showcase the many strengths in Antarctic and Southern Ocean research, education and support based here in Hobart.

We also support some of the satellite activities around the SCAR/COMNAP meetings, including an international workshop on the measurement of sea ice thickness (July 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>) and an international forum on the sub-Antarctic region, to be held at the CCAMLR headquarters on July 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. Many of our researchers will be presenting work to the international audience in one or more of these fora.

The CRC is also sponsoring an event in the Midwinter Festival that has a key focus on Antarctica. "Ice Cold Words" is a literary festival focussed on works written about Antarctica by a wide range of Australian writers. The festival is being organised by the Tasmanian Writers Centre as part of the Midwinter Festival and will also provide a venue for the launch of the next edition of Island Magazine, for which the theme is (you guessed it) Antarctica.

Our national and international engagements at the moment are not restricted to Hobart, however. Dr John Church is co-convening an international workshop in Paris on sea-level rise, where the leading researchers in this important area will synthesise the most recent work on the drivers of changes in sea level, current sea level conditions, and the impacts of climate change in the near future.

Several of us also went to the annual conference of the CRC Association in Brisbane in May. One of the highlights at this year's conference was a presentation by our Patron, Professor Sir Guy Green, on the social, environmental and economic benefits of CRCs in the environment sector, including the ACE CRC. Sir Guy's talk was very positively received and generated a lot of subsequent discussion. In May we also collaborated with the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Canberra to present displays, talks and workshops on *The Southern Ocean: Linking Australia and Antarctica*. The Discovery Centre is running a series of themed activities, each lasting a month, and we were fortunate to be able to work with the centre on the Southern Ocean and Antarctica theme.

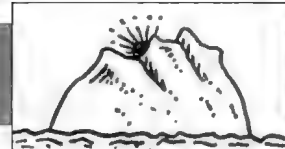
I noted in the last issue that one of our major voyages, the BROKE-West cruise, was then in progress. It is relatively unusual to have a major cruise such as that one structured to integrate physical and biological observation in one program, rather than simply running fairly independent programmes on a cruise, and doing so successfully over a 70+ day cruise is a major challenge. The BROKE –West cruise was remarkably successful and I congratulate all the folk on the cruise, including the excellent crew of the *Aurora Australis*, on making a challenging program run to schedule without a hitch.

A second key voyage this year departed from Hobart on March 28 to deploy the experimental 'Pulse Mooring' being developed in our Ocean Control of CO<sub>2</sub> Program. The Pulse Mooring is designed to allow stationary automated sampling in the near-surface waters of the Southern Ocean over extended periods and if successful will be a major innovation from the ACE CRC and its partners of interest to researchers in many countries.

Finally, it is great to be able to announce some more outstanding career achievements by ACE CRC researchers. Dr Steve Rintoul, from CSIRO and leader of the ACE CRC Climate Variability and Change Program, has been elected to the Australian Academy of Science in recognition of his tremendous contributions to Oceanography, especially of the Southern Ocean. Dr John Church, also from CSIRO and Leader of our Sea Level Rise Program, has been invited to give the prestigious Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture for 2006 at the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in Paris on 21 June. These awards again reflect the very high calibre of researchers we are privileged to have in Hobart and involved in the ACE CRC.

**Professor Bruce Mapstone**  
**CEO, ACE CRC**

ACE CRC – Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Co-operative Research Centre  
SCAR – Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research  
COMNAP – Councils of Managers of National Antarctic Programs  
CCAMLR – Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources  
BROKE – Baseline Research on Oceanography, Krill and the Environment  
CSIRO – Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation



## CCAMLR IS TWENTY-FIVE

This year's meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in October will be the organisation's twenty-fifth. Similarly, 7 April 2007 will be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention's entry into force.

The world is a very different place since CCAMLR into being. Some notable events that have directly impacted on CCAMLR's membership include two Gulf Wars, the war over the Falklands/Malvinas, the demise of the Berlin Wall, the break-up of the Soviet Union, the dissolution of apartheid, a myriad of other important international events, and of course 9/11.

Despite such significant historic milestones, CCAMLR has endured as a progressive, effective and esteemed international organisation, responsible for the sustainable and peaceful, management of a large part of the world's ocean. It is therefore very fitting that the organisation's twenty-fifth birthday celebrations coincide with the Fourth International Polar Year (2007-2008).

CCAMLR is also planning a variety of commemorative events and mementos. One of the more important coincides with the launching of a beautiful book depicting Antarctic fish interpreted through the exquisite Japanese art form of *gyotaku*.

[Denzil Miller, Executive Secretary for CCAMLR]

## 'ICE BEARS UPDATE' FROM GORDON BAIN

For those who have seen one or both of the earlier websites covering the journeys of the Beanie Kids Berkley and OzGold to Antarctica in 2000/01 (with me) and to Greenland in 2004 with a Kansas University research team – there is a new journal. This describes their trip to the McMurdo area in 2005/06 with the PRISM team – go to <http://www.ku-prism.org/resources/Bears2005/>.

The Bears' earlier exploits are at <http://ku-prism.org/resources/BearsOnIce/index.html> and [ku-prism.org/resources/Bears2004/2004\\_index.htm](http://ku-prism.org/resources/Bears2004/2004_index.htm). I'm still hoping (hint hint) that one JS who took OzGold touring on the 'Kapitan Khlebnikov' last summer to the Ross Sea area might let me have a journal and photos (publishable or otherwise) which I can edit/arrange to add to the website.

Seriously, the journals of these little guys makes good exploring especially for students (and for the rest of you who are young at heart and share my passion for all things Antarctic).

## COOL PLANTS

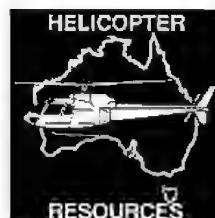
An 'anti-freeze gene' has been discovered in a type of saltgrass growing on the Antarctic Peninsula. Since the gene allows grass to grow at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  degrees, Australian researchers from La Trobe University in Victoria plan to create frost-free strains of plants to overcome crop losses during winter.

## NORTHERN WARMING

If the thaw in Arctic countries continues, oil and gas companies will have easier access to vast new energy resources. An estimated quarter of the world's natural gas and oil is, at present, hidden under the Arctic Ocean.

## CHILLY FISH ON THE MENU

Icefish from sub-Antarctic waters are now available in W.A. and Tasmania. Living 350m deep in freezing waters, these white, scale-free fish are about 30 cm long, taste similar to whiting and are rich in omega-3 oils. After 4 years of strict protocols and scientific assessment for sustainability, they are being caught by Austral Fisheries, one of the few companies licensed to catch fish near Heard and Macdonald Islands.



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## BOOKS

**PHILIP LAW: The Antarctic Exploration Years 1954-66** by Kathleen Ralston. Published by Ausinfo Department of Finance and Administration, Canberra. Price: Unknown.

- This biography is based on Philip Law's diaries and describes the variety of daily events which occurred during his Antarctic exploration, as well as Law's other achievements during this time as head of Australia's Antarctic Division.

**BEYOND THE FURIOUS FIFTIES: Antarctic and Subantarctic Paintings** by Catherine Bone. Sponsored by Aurora expeditions and AAD. Price:

- Shows a selection of oil paintings based on the artist's five summers at Antarctica bases and Macquarie Island.

**LADY FRANKLIN'S REVENGE: A True Story of Ambition, Obsession and the Remaking of Arctic History** by Ken McGoogan. Published by Bantam Press. Price: \$55.00

- Describes the travels, writings and other interests of Lady Franklin, wife of Arctic explorer and once Governor of Tasmania, Sir John Franklin.

**TERRA ANTARCTICA: Looking into the Emptiest Continent** by William L. Fox. Published by Trinity University Press. Price: \$35.

- Traces how humans attempt to comprehend Antarctica through historic, artistic, cartographic and scientific images.

## THE LONGEST NIGHT FILM FESTIVAL

This year's film festival runs from June 16-25 at the State Theatre, North Hobart, and includes 'Snow Petrel Down Under, the first film by Tasmanian Matt Tucker. It is a first hand account of Matt, his brother and father, sailing to Antarctica in a 10 metre yacht. Other films are based on the life and exploration of polar and extreme environments. [Program enclosed]

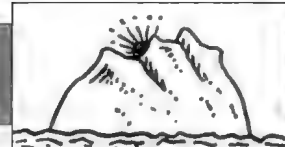
## EXTREME WEB SITES

[www.1000HourDay.com](http://www.1000HourDay.com) – Australia's Chris Bray and Clark Carter's Arctic expedition.

[www.pwnhc.learnet.nt.ca/databases/photodb.htm](http://www.pwnhc.learnet.nt.ca/databases/photodb.htm) – Historical Inuit (Eskimo) photos.



Postcard commemorating Russia's 50 years in Antarctica



## **HIGHWAY TO THE SOUTH**

The USA's 1632 km ice highway from the Antarctic coast to the South Pole has come under scrutiny again from environmental groups. This international coalition, including Antarctic scientists, is requesting a new environmental impact study on the effects of tonnes of supplies being trucked to the Pole during each summer. The US Antarctic Program intends to use road trains of up to six tractors-trailer units 300m long, and the group are concerned with pollution, as well the availability of the road to tourists.

## **MARITIME MOVE**

The Australian Maritime College will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 27 August this year. The College is currently considering moving the department of Fisheries and Marine Environment from Beauty Point to the Newnam Campus at Launceston.

## **ANTARCTIC PRINT SPOTS**

AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC NO.32 included a range of polar articles, including Tasmanian Rosemary Gales from the Marine Conservation Section of the Dept. of Primary Industries, Water & Environment; the Big Bird Race; elephant seals at Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne; dwarf Minke whales off Queensland and Arctic expeditioners Chris Bray and Clark Carter.

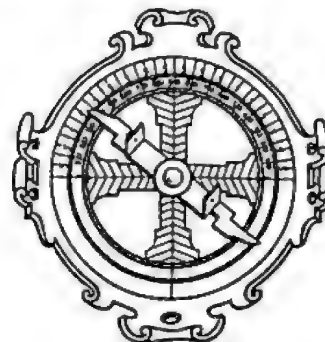
Many items about Antarctica have appeared in THE MERCURY newspaper this year. TMAG's 'Islands to Ice' exhibition has featured several times, as well as International Whaling Commission discussions; the discovery of a new colony of Emperor Penguins near Siple Island; seals, whales and penguins visiting Tasmania, and an article about a burrowscope, which fits down and records information from inaccessible Fairy Penguin burrows ([www.derwentestuary.org.au](http://www.derwentestuary.org.au))

In April, THE AGE featured an article about Asian and European nations claiming areas for new bases within Australia's Antarctic Territory. Although Australia claims 42% of the continent, few of the current 45 Antarctic Treaty nations acknowledge this, and China, India, South Korea, Estonia, Belgium and the Czech Republic plan to start construction of new bases soon.

## **SEA-LION CARE**

This month, a judge ruled in favour of the Humane Society of USA, which filed a suit last year to halt studies of Stellar sea-lions in Alaska. Research requiring branding and tissue sampling, authorised by the National Marine Fisheries Service, was not sufficiently evaluated to ensure the animals were not harmed.

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# POLAR CALENDAR



5	June	2006	World Environment Day.
6-8	June	2006	30 <sup>th</sup> Symposium on Antarctic Meteorites. NIPR. Tokyo, Japan.
8	June	2006	World Oceans Day and Marine Discovery Centre Open Day. <b>Woodbridge, Tasmania.</b>
9	June	2006	TPN meeting. 11.00am-1.00pm. University of Tasmania. <b>Hobart, Tasmania.</b>
12-23	June	2006	Antarctic Treaty Consultative meeting. Edinburgh, Scotland.
14-23	June	2006	GEBCO – General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Conference, Germany.
16-25	June	2006	Midwinter Festival events. <b>Hobart, Tasmania.</b> See <b><a href="http://www.antarctic-tasmania.info">www.antarctic-tasmania.info</a></b> .

## **MIDWINTER DINNERS 2006**

17	June	Hobart, Tasmania. Details at <b><a href="http://www.antarctic-tasmania.info">www.antarctic-tasmania.info</a></b>
17	June	South Australia
21/22	June	ANARE stations, Antarctica
23	June	Victoria
24	June	ANARE Club, Tasmania. Details at <b><a href="mailto:tasanareclub@netspace.net.au">tasanareclub@netspace.net.au</a></b>
1	July	Sydney, NSW

For other states, territories and details, see **[www.anareclub.org.au/allmwd.htm](http://www.anareclub.org.au/allmwd.htm)**

5-7	July	2006	International workshop on Antarctic Sea Ice Thickness. <b>Hobart, Tasmania.</b> For further details, see <b><a href="http://www.aspect.aq/workshop2006.html">www.aspect.aq/workshop2006.html</a></b> .
6-7	July	2006	International Forum on the Sub-Antarctic. <b>Hobart, Tasmania.</b> Contact <b><a href="mailto:antarctic@development.tas.gov.au">antarctic@development.tas.gov.au</a></b> .
8	July	2006	International Antarctic Institute Meeting. <b>Hobart Tasmania.</b>
8	July	2006	International Polar Year (IPY) Consultative Forum, <b>Hobart Tasmania.</b>
9-19	July	2006	SCAR XXIX/COMNAP XVIII Meetings. <b>Hobart, Tasmania.</b>
10	July	2006	Latitudinal Gradient Project workshop. <b>Hobart Tasmania.</b>
11	July	2006	Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML) Workshop. <b>Hobart, Tasmania.</b>

12-15 July SCAR/COMNAP TRADE SHOW, including TASMANIAN POLAR NETWORK EXHIBITION. 8.15am - 6.30pm daily. Federation Ballroom, Hotel Grand Chancellor. **Hobart, Tasmania.** Public Open Day on Saturday 8.30 – 6.00pm.

15	July	2006	Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) Workshop. <b>Hobart, Tasmania.</b>
17-19	August	2006	Old Antarctic Explorers Association 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Symposium/Reunion. Warwick, Rhode Island. USA.
27	August	2006	Australian Maritime College Open Day. 10.00am-3.00pm Newnam Campus, <b>Launceston, Tasmania.</b>
14-15	October	2006	Halley Bay 50 Year Observance. Northampton, UK.
23	October	2006-	
3	November	2006	CCAMLR meetings. <b>Hobart Tasmania.</b>
6-8	November	2006	Hydrographic Conference on Antarctica HCA-6. Punta Arenas, Chile.

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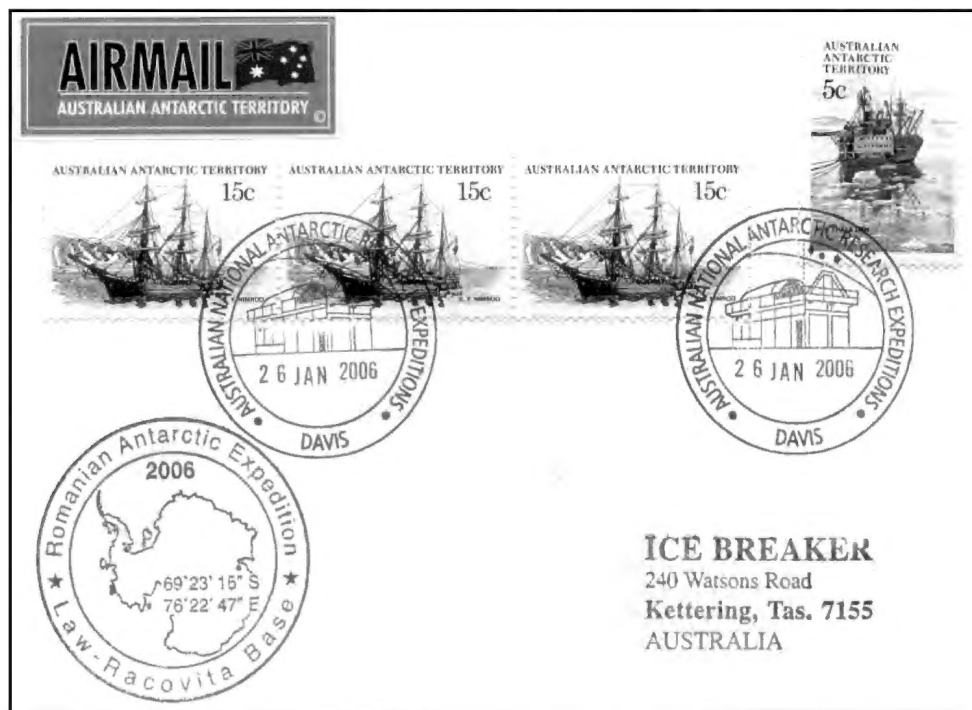
# SHIPPING & AIR CALENDAR



10	October	2006-	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1.1	Departs Hobart for marine equipment sea trials.
14	October	2006		
17	October	2006	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Departs Hobart for Casey Station.
18-24	October	2006	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Marine Science
31	October	2006-	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Casey Station.
3	November	2006		
11-16	November	2006	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Mawson Station
20-25	November	2006	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Davis Station
6-9	December	2006	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Arrives Hobart, departs for Davis Station.
21-27	December	2006	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Davis Station.
3-9	January	2007	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Casey Station.
19-22	January	2007	AURORA AUSTRALIS V3	Arrives Hobart, departs for Marine Science.
24	January	2007-	AURORA AUSTRALIS V3	Marine Science.
23	February	2007		
25	February	2007	AURORA AUSTRALIS V3	Arrives Hobart.

## FLIGHT CALENDAR FOR 'GINGER' AND 'GADGET'

25	October	2006	Hobart to Casey	F1/2	Start of season ferry flight.
1	November	2006	Casey to Davis	F3	Transfer from Voyage 1.
2	November	2006	Davis to Mawson	F4	Transfer from V1
			Mawson to Davis	F5	Transfer.
22	December	2006	Davis to Mawson	F6	Transfer from V2
			Mawson to Davis	F7	Transfer to V2
26	December	2006	Davis to Casey	F8	Transfer to meet V2.
10	January	2007	Casey to Davis	F9	Return aircraft.
12	January	2007	Davis to Mawson	F10	Transfer to pick up V4 personnel/cargo.
			Mawson to Davis	F11	Transfer to meet V4.
19	January	2007	Davis to Mawson	F16	Position for possible flight to Syowa Station (Japan)
			Mawson to Syowa	F17	Flights to be confirmed.
23	January	2007	Syowa to Mawson	F18	To be confirmed.
			Mawson to Davis	F19	To be confirmed.
15	February	2007	Davis to Casey	F12/13	Position aircraft.
25	February	2007	Casey to Hobart	F14/15	End of season ferry.



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